

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated July 31, 2002, claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner for reconsideration.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended several claims and believes that each of the indefinite problems have been resolved.

Claims 1-17, and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to recite classification theme score rather than referring to the theme itself. Therefore, applicant respectfully believes this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Snyder et al.* (6,038,561). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The claims have been amended to better clarify the invention with respect to the §112 rejections. Each of the claims is similar and thus will be described together.

The claims are directed to a system that is used to classify a document in response to a number of source documents in a class. Each of the classes has a plurality of identifying source documents therein. A classification theme score is developed for each of the classes in response to source documents for each of the plurality of classes. An unclassified document theme score is compared to the classification theme scores and if the classification theme score is nearly equal to the unclassified document theme score, the unclassified document is classified into the classification.

The *Snyder* reference is directed to a system for management and analysis of document information text. The system described in *Snyder* does develop a theme score as pointed to by the Examiner in various figures such as Fig. 10B. Overall, the system described in *Snyder* is very different than that of the present invention. The *Snyder* reference is used for finding references close to a particular reference, such as in the MAPIT described in Col. 6, lines 43-47. Based on a document, a number of documents are found and a theme score compared to the document is found. The present invention seeks to classify a document in response to a particular class. The class is defined by a plurality of source documents. The source documents are used to generate a classification theme score for the various classes. A theme score for an unclassified document is compared to the various classes and when the theme score is nearly equal to a class score the unclassified document is classified into the class with the closest score. The *Snyder* reference never goes so far as to classify references based on theme scores. That is, the *Snyder* reference merely seeks to search for related documents. This is somewhat inverse to the present invention. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection to claims since several missing elements of the independent claims are not found in the *Snyder* reference.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all objections and rejections are now overcome. Applicant has added no new material to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Amended) A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:
defining a plurality of classes;
identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes;
generating a classification theme score for each of said classes from the source documents for each of the plurality of classes;
entering an unclassified document into the system;
generating an unclassified document theme score corresponding to said unclassified document [source documents]; and
classifying the unclassified document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially [similar] equal to the [class] classification theme score.

2. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of reviewing documents in each of said [class] plurality of classes;
determining misclassified documents; and
assigning a theme score to the misclassified documents.

6. (Amended) A method as recited in claim [1] 5 wherein said step of forming a first and second subclass comprises identifying a selected group of related documents from said class.

7. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising reclassifying a plurality of classes into a plurality of new classes by:
identifying source documents for each of said plurality of new classes;

generating a respective plurality of new class theme scores for each
of said plurality of new classes;

reclassifying documents [with] within said plurality of classes into the
plurality of new classes when [the] a classified document theme score is
substantially similar to [the] one of respective new class theme [score] scores.

8. (Amended) A classification system comprising:
establishing a plurality of classes and a plurality of subclasses;
identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes and
said plurality of subclasses;
generating a classification theme score for each class and each
subclass in response to the source documents;
entering an unclassified document into the system;
generating an unclassified theme score for the unclassified
document; and
classifying the document into one of said plurality of classes when
the unclassified document theme score is substantially [similar] equal to the
[class] classification theme score.

11. (Amended) A method as recited in claim [8] 10 wherein said
predetermined section [comprises] is one from the group of an abstract; an
international classification; a U.S. classification, claims section and a title.

12. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further
comprising reclassifying a plurality of classes into a plurality of new classes by:
identifying source documents for each of said plurality of new
classes;
generating respective new class theme scores;
reclassifying documents with said plurality of classes into the
plurality of new classes when the classified document theme score is
[substantially similar] equal to one of the respective new class theme [score]
scores.

13. (Amended) A system for classifying documents comprising:
a document input for entering an unclassified document;
a document storage memory;
a controller coupled to said document input and document storage memory said controller programmed to classify documents into a plurality of classes by identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes, generating a classification theme score categorizing documents into said classes, and classifying the document into one of said plurality of classes when [the] an unclassified document theme score is substantially similar to the [class] classification theme score.

16. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 13 wherein said controller is programmed to identify source documents for each of [said] a plurality of new classes;

generate respective new [class] classification theme scores; and
reclassify documents with said plurality of classes into the plurality of new classes when [the] a [classified] document theme score is substantially similar to the new class theme score.